## Case 2:19-cv-05711-MMB\_ Document 3-HEILER 12/04/19 Page 1 of 12

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil decket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

ourpose of initiating the civil do	cket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCT	TIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF T	HIS FO	RM.)					
(a) PLAINTIFFS DEFENDANTS									
THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., a New Jersey Non Profit Corporation				ADAMS PLAZA ASSOCIATES, GP, a Pennsylvania General Partnership, d/b/a Adams Plaza					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Union, NJ				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant					
( )	CEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA		(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)						
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIPP CASES)				NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
Dessen timbses für rössitt	ddress, and Telephone Number	)		Attorneys (If Known)					
600 Easton Rd. Willow Grove, PA 19090-	2501 Tol 215-406-40	202							
villow Glove, FA 19090-	2391 161. 213-430-43	502							
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in Oi	ne Box Only)	I. CI	TIZENSHIP OF PI	RINCIPAL PART				
_			(For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF PTF DEF						
☐ 1 U.S. Government			Citizen of This State						
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)			Citizen of Another State 2 2 Incorporated and Principal Place 5 5				<b>5</b>	
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□ 130 Miller Act	315 Airplane Product	Product Liability	☐ 69	0 Other	28 USC 157	372	!9(a))		
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& Enforcement of Judgment	Slander	Personal Injury			☐ 820 Copyrights	🗇 430 Ban	ks and Banking	g	
☐ [5] Medicare Act	☐ 330 Federal Employers' Liability	Product Liability  ☐ 368 Asbestos Personal			☐ 830 Patent ☐ 835 Patent - Abbrevia	☐ 450 Con ated ☐ 460 Dep			
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☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	Liability  350 Motor Vehicle	PERSONAL PROPERTY  370 Other Fraud		0 Fair Labor Standards	☐ 861 HIA (1395ff)		ephone Consum	ner	
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle	☐ 371 Truth in Lending		Act /	☐ 862 Black Lung (923)	′ I	tection Act		
☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	Product Liability  360 Other Personal	380 Other Personal Property Damage	10 72	0 Labor/Management Relations	☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (4 ☐ 864 SSID Title XVI		urities/Commo	dities/	
☐ 196 Franchise	Injury	☐ 385 Property Damage		0 Railway Labor Act	□ 865 RSI (405(g))		change		
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Prief description of ca	lice.			- F				
	Action for injunctive	ve relief for violation o					1: 1:		
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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA DIVISION

THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., a New Jersey Non Profit Corporation,

Plaintiff,

VS.

Case No.

ADAMS PLAZA ASSOCIATES, GP, a Pennsylvania General Partnership, doing business as Adams Plaza,

Defendant.
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#### **COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., a New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation, on its behalf and on behalf of all other mobility-impaired individuals similarly-situated, (sometimes referred to as "Plaintiff"), hereby sues the Defendant, ADAMS PLAZA ASSOCIATES, GP, a Pennsylvania General Partnership, doing business as Adams Plaza, (herein sometimes referred to as "Defendant"), for Injunctive Relief, and attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC § 12181 et seq. ("ADA").

- 1. Plaintiff, THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., is a non-profit corporation formed under the laws of the State of New Jersey and maintains its principal office at 1002 Central Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974-1030, in the County of Union.
- 2. Defendant's property, Adams Plaza, is located at 823 Adams Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19124, in the County of Philadelphia.
- 3. Venue is properly located in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania because venue lies in

- the judicial district of the property situs. The Defendant's property is located in and does business within this judicial district.
- 4. Pursuant to 28 USC § 1331 and 28 USC § 1343, this Court has been given original jurisdiction over actions which arise from the Defendant's violations of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC § 12181 et seq. See, also, 28 USC § 2201 and § 2202.
- 5. Plaintiff, THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., is a non-profit New Jersey corporation. Members of this organization include individuals with disabilities as defined by the ADA, and are representative of a cross-section of the disabilities to be protected from discrimination by the ADA. The purpose of this organization is to represent the interest of its members by assuring places of public accommodation are accessible to and usable by the disabled and that its members are not discriminated against because of their disabilities. THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC. and its members have suffered and will continue to suffer direct and indirect injury as a result of the Defendant's discrimination until the Defendant is compelled to comply with the requirements of the ADA. One or more of its members has suffered an injury that would allow it to bring suit in its own right. THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC. has also been discriminated against because of its association with its disabled members and their claims.
- 6. Dennis Maurer is a New Jersey resident, is sui juris, and qualifies as an individual with disabilities as defined by the ADA. Mr. Maurer has multiple sclerosis and is mobility impaired, and uses a wheelchair for mobility. Mr. Maurer is also a member of the Plaintiff organization, THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., discussed above in paragraph 5.
- 7. Mr. Maurer has been to the subject property numerous times. The barriers to access as

set forth herein have endangered his safety. He plans to return to the subject property in the near future. Mr. Maurer has been a resident of South Jersey his entire life, and regularly travels to Philadelphia to see friends, to eat, to shop and go to shows, concerts and sporting events, and to go to Parx Casino and Racing. In conjunction with his activities in Philadelphia, he enjoys looking for the best Philly cheesesteaks. Mr. Maurer is an avid horseman, and is a retired former thoroughbred trainer in the state of New Jersey. He trained horses at Philadelphia Park in the 80's and 90's.

- 8. Defendant owns, leases, (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation as defined by the ADA and the regulations implementing the ADA, 28 CFR 36.201(a) and 36.104. Defendant is responsible for complying with the obligations of the ADA. The place of public accommodation that the Defendant owns, operates, leases or leases to is known as Adams Plaza, and is located at 823 Adams Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19124.
- 9. THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC. and Dennis Maurer have a realistic, credible, existing and continuing threat of discrimination from the Defendant's non-compliance with the ADA with respect to the property as described but not necessarily limited to the allegations in paragraph 11 of this Complaint. Plaintiff has reasonable grounds to believe that they will continue to be subjected to discrimination in violation of the ADA by the Defendant. DENNIS MAURER desires to visit Adams Plaza not only to avail himself of the goods and services available at the property but to assure himself that the property is in compliance with the ADA so that he and others similarly-situated will have full and equal enjoyment of the property without fear of discrimination.
- 10. The Defendant has discriminated against the individual Plaintiff, and the members of the corporate Plaintiff organization, by denying them access to, and full and equal enjoyment

- of, the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of the buildings, as prohibited by 42 USC § 12182 et seq.
- 11. The Defendant has discriminated, and is continuing to discriminate, against the Plaintiff in violation of the ADA by failing to, inter alia, have accessible facilities by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if Defendant has 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). A preliminary inspection of Adams Plaza has shown that violations exist. These violations which Dennis Maurer personally encountered or observed, include, but are not limited to:

#### Parking and Exterior Accessible Route

- A. Adams Plaza fails to provide visible accessible parking. Accessible parking is faded, lacks signage and is unrecognizable. Parking spaces provided are not maintained; lack access aisles, slopes beyond limits within parking spaces and lack compliant accessible routes from parking, violating Sections 402 and 502 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. These conditions during numerous visits caused Mr. Maurer to Double Park to ensure he could exit/enter his van and prevented Mr. Maurer from unloading from his van freely and safely.
- B. Curb ramps provided to access stores at Adams Plaza are unsafe for wheelchair users and are not provided in some areas of the center. The curb ramps contain excessive slopes, abrupt changes of level and lack level landings, violating Sections 402 and 406 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Curb ramps with excessive slopes are a hazard to Mr. Maurer and put him in danger of tipping over.
- C. The exterior accessible route from parking spaces at Adams Plaza contains severe abrupt changes of level greater than ¼ inch and lacks a direct route to ramps or curb ramps, violating Section 402 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Mr. Maurer was forced to travel in the traffic area of the center while avoiding abrupt changes of level to get to the curb ramp.
- D. Adams Plaza fails to provide the required amount of compliant accessible parking spaces, violating Section 502 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. The lack of accessible parking makes Mr. Maurer park in open areas so he can unload freely and safely from his vehicle.
- E. Adams Plaza fails to provide a safe accessible route to the adjacent bus stop, street or sidewalk, violating Section 206.2.1 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. The lack of an accessible route prevents the option of public transportation for Mr. Maurer.

#### Access to Goods and Services

- F. Pan Asian Buffet, Pho 75, Café Saigon and Dunkin Donuts, fail to provide an accessible checkout lines and certain elements are mounted beyond the reach of Mr. Maurer, violating Sections 308 and 904 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Mr. Maurer required assistance while checking out at Adams Plaza.
- G. Entering tenants is impeded by abrupt changes of level at the base and/or slopes beyond limits, violating Section 404 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Abrupt changes of level can cause damage to Mr. Maurer's wheelchair and a lack of latch side clearance prevents Mr. Maurer from entering without assistance.
- H. Pan Asian Buffet, Pho 75, Café Saigon and Dunkin Donuts fail to provide accessible dining tables for those in wheelchairs, violating Section 902 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Mr. Maurer was unable to dine comfortably due to a lack of accessible tables.

#### Restrooms

- I. Restrooms at Pan Asian Buffet, Pho 75, Café Saigon and Dunkin Donuts were reported to be unsafe for use by the plaintiff. Inspection revealed Mr. Maurer was unable to use the restrooms safely due to a lack of accessibility. Including, inaccessible water closets which lack proper controls and wheelchair maneuvering space violating Section 601 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards.
- J. Restrooms at Pan Asian Buffet, Pho 75, Café Saigon and Dunkin Donuts provide dispensers beyond reach of Mr. Maurer and are inaccessible to the plaintiff, violating Section 308 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards.
- K. Lavatories at Pan Asian Buffet, Pho 75, Café Saigon and Dunkin Donuts lack knee clearance and accessibility preventing Mr. Maurer from freely accessing the lavatory, violating Section 606 the 2010 Accessibility Standards.
- L. Pan Asian Buffet, Pho 75 and Café Saigon provide restrooms that contain improper centerlines for the water closets and/or flush controls mounted on the wall side, violating Section 604 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Mr. Maurer was unable to access flush controls while in the restrooms due to improper location.
- M. Using restrooms doors Pan Asian Buffet, Pho 75, Café Saigon and Dunkin Donuts is impeded by round door knobs, improper signage and/or a lack of maneuvering clearance, violating Section 404 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Lack of latch side clearance, stored goods and maneuvering space impede Mr. Maurer from easily accessing doors.

#### Maintenance

- N. The accessible features of the facility are not maintained, creating barriers to access for the Dennis Maurer, as set forth herein, in violation of 28 CFR 36.211.
- 12. All of the foregoing cited violations are violations of both the 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act Guidelines (ADAAG) and the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design, as adopted by the Department of Justice.
- The discriminatory violations described in paragraph 11 are not an exclusive list of the 13. Defendant's ADA violations. Plaintiff requires the inspection of the Defendant's place of public accommodation in order to photograph and measure all of the discriminatory acts violating the ADA and all of the barriers to access. The Plaintiff, members of the Plaintiff group, and all other individuals similarly-situated, have been denied access to, and have been denied the benefits of services, programs and activities of the Defendant's buildings and its facilities, and have otherwise been discriminated against and damaged by the Defendant because of the Defendant's ADA violations, as set forth above. The Plaintiff, members of the Plaintiff group and all others similarly-situated will continue to suffer such discrimination, injury and damage without the immediate relief provided by the ADA as requested herein. In order to remedy this discriminatory situation, the Plaintiff requires an inspection of the Defendant's place of public accommodation order to determine all of the areas of non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 14. Defendant has discriminated against the Plaintiff by denying them access to full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of its place of public accommodation or commercial facility in violation of 42 USC § 12181 et seq. and 28 CFR. 36.302, et seq. Furthermore, the Defendant

continues to discriminate against the Plaintiff, and all those similarly-situated by failing to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities; and by failing to take such efforts that may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services.

- Plaintiff is without adequate remedy at law and is suffering irreparable harm. Considering the balance of hardships between the Plaintiff and Defendant, a remedy in equity is warranted. Furthermore, the public interest would not be disserved by a permanent injunction. Plaintiff has retained the undersigned counsel and is entitled to recover attorney's fees, costs and litigation expenses from the Defendant pursuant to 42 USC § 12205 and 28 CFR 36.505.
- 16. Defendant is required to remove the existing architectural barriers to the physically disabled, when such removal is readily achievable for its place of public accommodation that has existed prior to January 26, 1992, 28 CFR 36.304(a); in the alternative, if there has been an alteration to Defendant's place of public accommodation since January 26, 1992, then the Defendant is required to ensure to the maximum extent feasible, that the altered portions of the facility are readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs, 28 CFR 36.402; and finally, if the Defendant's facility is one which was designed and constructed for first occupancy subsequent to January 26, 1993, as defined in 28 CFR 36.401, then the Defendant's facility must be readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities as defined by the ADA.

- 17. Notice to Defendant is not required as a result of the Defendant's failure to cure the violations by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if Defendant has 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). All other conditions precedent have been met by Plaintiff or waived by the Defendant.
- Pursuant to 42 USC § 12188, this Court is provided with authority to grant Plaintiff Injunctive Relief, including an order to require the Defendant to alter Adams Plaza to make those facilities readily accessible and useable to the Plaintiff and all other persons with disabilities as defined by the ADA; or by closing the facility until such time as the Defendant cures its violations of the ADA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests:

- a. The Court issue a Declaratory Judgment that determines that the Defendant at the commencement of the subject lawsuit is in violation of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC § 12181 et seq.
- b. Injunctive relief against the Defendant, including an order to make all readily achievable alterations to the facility; or to make such facility readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the ADA; and to require the Defendant to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities; and by failing to take such steps that may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services.

- c. An award of attorney's fees, costs and litigation expenses pursuant to 42 USC §12205.
- d. Such other relief as the Court deems just and proper, and/or is allowable under
   Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- e. The Order shall further require the Defendant to maintain the required accessible features on an ongoing basis.

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Dessen, Esquire, PA Bar No. 17627

Dessen, Moses & Rossitto

600 Easton Rd.

Willow Grove, PA 19090 Telephone: (215) 658-1400

Facsimile: (215) 658-2879

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John P. Fuller, Esquire, pro hac vice pending

Fuller, Fuller & Associates, P.A. 12000 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 502

North Miami, FL 33181 Telephone: (305) 891-5199 Facsimile: (305) 893-9505

Email: jpf@fullerfuller.com

Counsel for Plaintiff

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

CIVIL ACTION

$\mathbf{v}_{\star}$		: :			
ADAMS PLAZA ASSOCIATES, GP		:	NO.		
plaintiff shall complete a Cas filing the complaint and serve side of this form.) In the ex- designation, that defendant sh	e Management Tra a copy on all defer yent that a defendant hall, with its first a ties, a Case Manag	ack Designation idants. (See § 1: ant does not agr ppearance, subn ement Track De	etion Plan of this court, counse Form in all civil cases at the tim 03 of the plan set forth on the reverse with the plaintiff regarding nit to the clerk of court and serves ignation Form specifying the terms.	ers sai	of se id on
SELECT ONE OF THE FO	LLOWING CAS	E MANAGEM	ENT TRACKS:		
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases b	rought under 28 U	.S.C. § 2241 thr	ough § 2255.	(	)
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.					)
(c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.					)
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.					)
(e) Special Management – C commonly referred to as the court. (See reverse si management cases.)	complex and that i	need special or i	ntense management by	(	)
(f) Standard Management –	Cases that do not t	fall into any one	of the other tracks.	(,	/)
Date 12 18/19	David S. Dessen, Esq Attorney-at-	Law law	Plaintiff  Attorney for		_
215-496-2902	215-658-0747		ddessen@dms-lawyer.com -		_
Telephone	FAX Number	er	E-Mail Address		

(Civ. 660) 10/02

THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC.

### 

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### **DESIGNATION FORM**

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff: 1002 Central Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974					
Address of Defendant: 420 Bainbridge Street, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19147					
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 823 Adams Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19124					
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:					
Case Number: Judge: Date Terminated:					
Civil cases are deemed related when <i>Yes</i> is answered to any of the following questions:					
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?					
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?					
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court?					
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual?					
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case this court except as noted above.  DATE: 12/02/2019					
CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only)					
A. Federal Question Cases:  B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:					
□ 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts □ 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts   □ 2. FELA □ 2. Airplane Personal Injury   □ 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury □ 3. Assault, Defamation   □ 4. Antitrust □ 4. Marine Personal Injury   □ 5. Patent □ 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury   □ 6. Labor-Management Relations □ 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify):   □ 7. Civil Rights □ 7. Products Liability   □ 8. Habeas Corpus □ 8. Products Liability - Asbestos   □ 9. Securities Act(s) Cases □ 9. All other Diversity Cases   □ 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts   □ 2. Airplane Personal Injury   □ 4. Marine Personal Injury   □ 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury   □ 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify):   □ 7. Products Liability - Asbestos   □ 9. All other Diversity Cases   (Please specify):    (Please specify):					
ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION					
I, David S. Dessen, Esq counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:  Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:					
Relief other than monetary damages is sought.					
DATE: 12/02/2019 17627					
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)  NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.					